



**Maricopa County**  
*Animal Care and Control*

# *Love Your Pet? License Your Pet!*



Thousands of pets find their way to Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) each year without any form of identification. Unfortunately, without identification we are unable to reunite them with their families. Purchasing a pet license will ensure that your special companion can be returned home quickly and safely.

## **WHO NEEDS A MARICOPA COUNTY PET LICENSE?**

The law requires that all dogs over the age of three months have a license and rabies vaccination (the vaccination must be administered by a licensed veterinarian). The law covers all of unincorporated Maricopa County, Maricopa County, the town of Queen Creek and all other municipalities within Maricopa County, with the exception of Fountain Hills and Native American reservations. An application for a license must be made within 15 days of vaccination. Residents new to Maricopa County and new dog owners must purchase a dog license within 30 days. A penalty fee will be assessed for late applications. The term of the license is based on the month and day of the most current rabies vaccination recorded at MCACC and is valid for one calendar year.

## **SHOULD I LICENSE MY CAT?**

Although the state of Arizona does not require cats to be licensed, getting a license for your cat is a good idea. A lost cat with a license tag has a better chance of being returned to his/her guardian.

## **HOW DOES A LICENSE BENEFIT MY PET AND ME?**

- **Peace of mind that your and your found pet can be reunited quickly.**

- **Your lost pet gets a free ride home.** MCACC staff will attempt to bring your pet home to you immediately, saving you a trip to our Center.
- **If your pet is licensed, the first 24 hours at our center are free.** Licensed pets that are impounded will be returned without charge to their owners within the first 24 hours of impoundment.
- **Your lost pet gets a longer care period at MCACC centers.** We will exhaust every option we have to contact you using the information in our database, as well as provide this information to Pets 911.
- **If your dog bites someone, he/she may be eligible for home quarantine** instead of quarantine in our facility or a veterinary hospital.
- **License fees support the return of over 6,500 pets to their homes** and adoption of 20,000 homeless pets to new families every year. Other services funded by pet licenses are spay/neuter programs to reduce pet overpopulation and community education services.
- **Possible home quarantine for minor dog bites.** This is determined by the MCACC field officer on a case-by-case basis.

## **HOW CAN I LICENSE MY PET?**

In order to license your pet you must have proof of a rabies vaccination. MCACC offers rabies vaccinations for \$23. You can also obtain a rabies vaccination for your pet from a private veterinarian.

## **WHERE CAN I LICENSE MY PET?**

**Mail.** You can download and print out a copy of the Pet License Application and

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Renewal Form on our website, [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov), and mail it to:

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control  
Licensing Division  
P.O. Box 52887  
Phoenix, AZ 85072

**In Person.** You can buy a pet license in person at any MCACC Center.

**Phone or On-line.** License renewals that do not require your pet to have a booster vaccination may renew over the phone or on-line. The instructions are printed on the renewal form. If you have misplaced your renewal or didn't receive one, you may call 602-506-PETS for further instruction.

## **HOW MUCH DOES A LICENSE COST? (ALL FEES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Dog licenses cost \$12 for altered dogs and \$40 for unaltered dogs. Cat licenses can be purchased for \$5 (altered) or \$10 (unaltered). Late fees range from \$3 to \$23. MCACC now offers a senior discount to people who are 65 or better. The senior citizen fee is \$6. However there is a two pet maximum for this discount.

## **WHAT ARE ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF PROOF THAT MY PET HAS BEEN SPAYED OR NEUTERED?**

- A sterilization certificate from the veterinarian that completed the surgery or examined your pet to verify the surgery.
- Previous license information showing spay/neuter status.

## **IS YOUR PET KEPT INDOORS OR IN A FENCED YARD?**

All pets need to be licensed so they have identification in case they get out or become lost,

and it's the law. Even indoor-only pets can get loose. A license helps assure that you can be reunited with your pet.

## **HAS YOUR PET LOST ITS TAG?**

If your pet loses his tag during the license year, you may purchase a replacement tag for \$4. If you are mailing in your payment, you do not need to complete a Pet License Application/Renewal form. Just enclose your check with a short note stating that your pet lost its tag and include the tag number from your receipt. If you can't locate your receipt, make sure you include your name, address, phone number, and the pet's name and description in the note.

## **DID YOU ADOPT A LICENSED PET?**

If you adopted a currently licensed pet from its owner, you do not have to purchase a new tag. Simply apply for a transfer of ownership at any of our Centers or by mail. To apply send a written and signed request, the original license receipt, and a \$4 transfer fee to:

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control  
Licensing Division  
PO Box 52887  
Phoenix, AZ 85072

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY ANIMAL WAS VACCINATED IN ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTY?**

If your pet was vaccinated outside of Maricopa County, you will need to obtain a Maricopa County license. You may call 602-506-PETS for further instruction.

*For more information on animal care, behavior or MCACC programs, contact (602) 506-PETS or visit [pets.maricopa.gov](http://pets.maricopa.gov)*

*Shelter Locations:*

*2323 S. 35th Ave., Phoenix, 2630 W. 8th St., Mesa, 5231 N. 35th Ave., Phoenix*